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ARTICLES NEEDED!

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,
please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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WEB!**

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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



August 2010



Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: JOHN OOMMEN

TBD

EBENEZER

LEADER: JOHN K. MATHEW

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: GEORGE MAMMEN

August 1, 2010-6pm at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas George, Rockwall, TX.

MANNA

LEADER: ANNIE THOMAS

TBD

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

Yuvajana Sakhyam Membership Renewal

Yuvajana Sakhyam is renewing the membership for this year. The registration fee is \$5 per person.

The last date for submitting the membership application is September 1, 2010

Please contact Achen / Secretary for details and membership form.

Southwest Regional Competition

September 11, 2010

Sehion Marthoma church, Dallas

Yuvajana Sakhyam members who are interested in participating in the Southwest regional group song competition may need to register their name with Ligi Skariah, or Secretary.

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
August 1 <i>Shalom</i>				
August 8 <i>Agape</i>				
August 15 <i>Ebenezer</i>				
August 22 <i>Emmanuel</i>				
August 29 <i>Manna</i>				



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

August 6th is the day of the Feast of Transfiguration. Also August 1st through 15th are 15 days of lent. In Mark 9:2-12 we see the transfiguration experience of Jesus. While Jesus was praying, he was transformed before his disciples. Moses and Elijah appeared before Jesus. Peter wanted to stay on the mountain. But Jesus came down to the valley to continue his mission, and he healed a boy with an evil spirit. The transfiguration experience on the mountain and the mission in the valley of disfiguration are two sides of Christianity. This even shows the importance of prayer.

1. What is prayer?

Prayer is our communication with God. It is the fellowship between creator and creatures.

Mahatma Gandhi said "Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening"

Mother Theresa said, "Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself"

Carlo Carreto said "The degree of our faith is the degree of our prayer. The strength of our hope is the strength of our prayer. The warmth of our charity is the warmth of our prayer"

2. How and where to pray?

Jesus prayed everywhere, on mountain, at home, at the temple and on the cross. Since God is truth and spirit we can experience God anywhere and anytime. Jesus taught us how to pray and how not to pray (Matthew 6:5-15) He also taught the most beautiful and perfect prayer called "Lord's Prayer"

3. Why should we pray?

Prayer is not simply an appeal to God for our selfish desires. But it is to discern God's will. Prayer is for our transformation and for the transformation of the world. Prayer is to receive God's power of live and to participate in God's mission.

St. Francis of Assissi prayed:

"Lord make us instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy."

Let us also pray like this.

May God transform us to transform the world, and may God bless us to be a blessing for the world.

Yours in Christ Service
Noble Achen
revnobleap@yahoo.com

Study Series: Marriage and Family
(Continued from last issue).

1) The first phase of marriage is expectations.
 2) The Second phase is covenant. It is mainly the wedding ceremony, the sacrament of marriage. The man and woman take solemn promise before God, family and friends that they will love, honor and cherish on another until death. By signing the covenant, they enter into a relationship that embodies all that God intended for marriage. The importance of this covenant is”

i) It is a lifelong covenant.
 It is vowing to each other before the Lord that they will stay together until one of them dies. Jesus taught against divorce (Matthew 19:4-9). The promise of marriage is not made to be broken. The marriage vow is the verbal expression of a lifelong commitment made in mind and heart.

ii) It is a shared identity.
 In marital covenant, two become one. Man no longer lives for himself and woman no longer lives for herself. It is a new unity in diversity. Both remain distinct persons, yet they share a mystery of oneness. St. Paul describes this oneness in Ephesians 5:28-32. As the church is united with Christ, so man and woman are untied. They have so many differences, yet now in covenant, they are one. They promise to walk the pathway of life together as one in a new shared identity.

iii) It is an exclusive relationship.
 This covenant demands total faithfulness from husband and wife (Proverbs 6:27-29) St. Paul speaks about morality (1Timothy 5:2). One of the ten commandments is about faithfulness in married life (Exodus 20:14). Jesus affirmed it (Matthew 19:18). Holiness is marital life is a mark of Christian life (Hebrew 13:4) . Husband and wife are expected to be true to each other.

3) The third phase of marriage is Dillusionment.
 This is the stage of dissatisfaction and suspension. Husband and wife understood that their expectations about the partner and marriage did not come true. They start taking decisions without considering the feelings of the partner. Stress due to the career, financial matters and caring the children may affect the marital relationship. There are three main factors that cause disillusionment.

i) The closeness itself can cause disillusionment because now they know the best and the worst about each other. In the intimacy of marriage the husband and wife may show selfishness, impatience, insensitivity and anger. Marriage exposes not only the faults of our mate, but also ourselves.

ii) Wrong motives for marriage may cause disillusionment.

iii) Destructive behaviors in marriage also cause disillusionment. Some of such behaviors are:

- Nagging Criticism (Prov 21:19)
- Anger (Proverbs 22:24)
- Self Centeredness (Philippians 2:1-4)

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, August 1, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Social Responsibility of the Church (Mission Sunday) (10th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Amos. 2:1-8	Epistle: Jam. 5:1-6
Lesson 2: Rom. 5:1-11	Gospel: Mat. 25:31-46
Sunday, August 8, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Bear Witness to the Glory of the Lord	
Lesson 1: Isa. 6:1-8	Epistle: Phil. 3:7-16
Lesson 2: Acts. 2:22-36	Gospel: Mark. 16:9-18
Sunday, August 15, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana—English) Fifteen Days Fast Ends -Independence Day - Participation in Nation Building (12th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Exo. 15:1-8	Epistle: Gal. 5:1-6
Lesson 2: Acts. 15:1-22	Gospel: John. 8:31-38
Sunday, August 22, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Reformation Day - Nurturing Gospel Values	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings 23:1-11	Epistle: Eph. 4:25-5:14
Lesson 2: 1 Cor. 13:1-11	Gospel: Mark. 11:12-18
Sunday, August 29, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Holy Qurbana - Banquet of the Kingdom of God	
Lesson 1: Exo. 16:9-21	Epistle: 1 Cor. 10:1-17
Lesson 2: Rev. 19:1-10	Gospel: John. 6:30-58

BIRTHDAYS

1-Aug	Shiny Mathewkutty	Mesquite	27-Aug	Kurian Baby	Rockwall
1-Aug	Smitha Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Aug	Kevin John	Mesquite
3-Aug	Aleena Thomas	Rockwall	28-Aug	Jeffrey John	Sunnyvale
3-Aug	Christopher Thomas	Sunnyvale	29-Aug	Preethy Varghese	Garland
9-Aug	Mary Mathew	Rowlett	29-Aug	Renita Thomas	Mesquite
10-Aug	Alexander Varghese	Garland	29-Aug	Shawn Thomas	Mesquite
11-Aug	Nicholas Koshy	Mesquite	30-Aug	Justin B Pappachen	Mesquite
15-Aug	Crystal Kurien	Mesquite	31-Aug	Soji Skariah	Garland
20-Aug	George John	Mesquite			
21-Aug	Jerin Abraham	Dallas			
21-Aug	Syja Cherian	Garland			
22-Aug	Jeffrey Mathew	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Jiju Thomas	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Thankamma Thomas	Forney			
24-Aug	Varghese Alexander	Fate			
25-Aug	Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie			
26-Aug	Juby Joseph	Garland			
26-Aug	Mariamamma Philip	Dallas			
26-Aug	Merlin	Garland			
26-Aug	Vincent Johnkutty	Mesquite			

Irritating Behavior (1 Corinthians 13:5)
And Emotional Dishonesty (Matthew 5:28)

4. The fourth phase of marriage is fulfillment. The disillusionment can lead to reconciliation and the acceptance that makes marriage worth it for life. The disillusionment helps to think about the love and security we have been looking for. Our marital disappointment may help us to face our disappointment with God. God's Spirit enables us for repentance, renewal and reconciliation. It will lead us to the fulfillment of the covenant relationship. Our dependence on God becomes the basis for loving interdependence (Ephesians 5:22-32). As Christ loved the church by giving his life, the marital love should be revealed in actions.

Note: This Study will be continued in the next issue.

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunnyvale Park, Sunnyvale, TX

August 7, 2010—8 AM TO 5 PM

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. George John	Mesquite
11-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Rajan Mathew	Mesquite
13-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Mathew	Richardson
19-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese A. Varghese	Garland
20-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew	Mesquite
26-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob C.C	Garland
27-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Mathews Idiculla	Garland
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas	Mesquite
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Abraham	Garland

2010 GRADUATES *

COLLEGE GRADUATES:
Kezia Cherian - Masters in Arts (Christian Education)

*Omitted in the July newsletter. We apologize for this omission.

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



"It sure didn't pay to increase my vocabulary *that time!*"

Is it okay to curse?! Do the words we use or what we say really have an impact? Aren't they just words?!

We live in a culture where it is often considered popular and acceptable to curse or speak in whatever manner we choose. The concept of "freedom of speech" is emphasized but, the impact of our speech is many times neglected. However, the Scriptures teach us that our words must never be taken lightly and are only to be uttered responsibly.

Throughout the Bible, we find that the power of "words" is tremendous. In fact, we understand in Genesis that when God spoke light and life were brought forth. In the words Jesus spoke, we too find that it brought forth liberation (man who suffered from Legion, lame, blind, etc.) hope and new life to those who were in need. Therefore, let us see language not simply as a tool to communicate but more as a precious and divine gift that God has imparted to humanity. Thus, it possesses the potential to bring forth hope or disaster. This is most clearly emphasized in Proverbs 18:21, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit".

It is also important to remember that Jesus spoke of the misuse of language in this way, "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned" (St. Matt.12:36-37). Thus, Jesus furthers the impact of the words even into the day of judgment and eternity.

As such the Word of God teaches that accountability in this matter rests with the individual. It must be the decision of the individual to understand that and decide to control the tongue. Here are a few things to keep in mind that may help:

Become Conscientious of your words. Often cursing and speaking ill can become habitual. It may be prompted by anger or emotional distress. Perhaps writing down the negative words you say in a day and reviewing it later will help you become conscientious of your tongue.

Think before you speak. Do not become impulsive with language. **Risk it for God.** Perhaps avoiding negative language will make you less acceptable or popular and even jeopardize your relationship among certain friends and colleagues. Risk it! True and honest friends will respect you for your decision.

May God Almighty strengthen us all discern the power of language so that we may use it for His glory alone!

Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen
C- 214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:
TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:
Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas
Thursdays - Prayer Call
Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:
TBD

PARISH MISSION:
Fridays at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.
Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:
Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.